

be achieved by measures directed to the environment. We could wish that the contents of this booklet might be carefully studied by all medical officers of health and the army of officials called into being by the Insurance Act.

(2.) The second lecture was originally delivered to the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society. It is an eloquent plea for the creation of medical mathematicians and, pending the realisation of that ideal, for an *entente cordiale* between the statistician and the public health officer. Among the topics dwelt on are the influence of natural selection on man and the inheritance of certain special defects, such as achondroplasia. Some beautiful plates are reproduced from the "Treasury of Human Inheritance." M. G.

**Žizek**, Privatdozent. DR. FRANZ, von *Statistik und Rassenbiologie einschliesslich Rassenhygiene*. (Sonderabdruck.) Statistische Monatschrift, 1912; pp. 431-460.

THIS is a summary of the results reached by various workers in the departments of racial biology and hygiene with the aid of statistical methods. The article will be of use to many who desire an introduction to the literature, but the author's knowledge of statistical processes, if we may judge by his remarks on page 441 with respect to the meaning of a coefficient of correlation, is somewhat superficial, and safer guides may be found in this country. M. G.

**Davenport**, CHARLES B., M.D. *Eugenics and the Physician*. (Reprinted from the "New York Medical Journal," June 8th, 1912.) IN this address, delivered to a medical audience, Dr. Davenport points out the valuable help which physicians might derive from the systematic study of family traits in their patients, as bearing, for instance, on individual differences in susceptibility and mode of reaction to infective agents; and he further appeals to medical men to co-operate with students of heredity in accumulating data concerning the inheritance of normal and morbid characters in man. The natural affinity of Mendelian methods to the individualist attitude of medical practice should secure a sympathetic response to Dr. Davenport's invitation. Though it ought to be well known by this time, it may be worth while to repeat that the Eugenics Record Office at Cold Spring Harbour, New York, will furnish printed schedules for recording such data, and will welcome information with regard to family histories. Dr. Davenport mentions that he is at present studying the heredity of cleft palate and harelip, and would be glad to receive data bearing thereon.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

**McConnell**, R. M., Ph.D. *Criminal Responsibility and Social Constraint*. London. John Murray; 1912; 339 pp.; price 7s. 6d. net. THIS work is, in the main, an examination of the ethical basis of punishment. It treats, therefore, of a subject of quite respectable antiquity which has been so often and so exhaustively discussed in the past that of necessity the arguments bearing on it have for the most part become familiar almost to the point of being wearisome. It says much for Dr. McConnell's dialectic skill that he has been able to present so hackneyed a theme in the fresh and interesting form which he has given to it in this eminently readable volume. Defining punishment as suffering intentionally inflicted by society on an offending member, the author in the first part of the work discusses the social merits and demerits of the four fundamental conceptions to which, in his view, it is possible to reduce the theories of punishment, namely expiation, retribution, deterrence, and reformation. From this inquiry he concludes that no one of these ideas can be accepted as the exclusive basis of punitive treatment. On the other hand, each of them, except the idea of expia-